

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SSC-01 SAJ-01

IO-14 NIC-01 DRC-01 /104 W

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O R 151401Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2533

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PINS, GW

SUBJECT: SCHEEL ELECTED FEDERAL PRESIDENT

1. THE FDP'S WALTER SCHEEL WAS ELECTED TO THE FEDERAL
PRESIDENCY MAY 15 ON A PARTY-LINE VOTE 530 TO 498 FOR
THE CDU/CSU'S VON WEIZSAECKER. ONE SPD AND TWO CDU
REPRESENTATIVES WERE ABSENT. SCHEEL WILL SUCCEED THE
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CURRENT PRESIDENT, HEINEMANN, THE FIRST OF JULY.

2. COMMENT: AS SCHEEL ACHIEVED AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ON THE FIRST BALLOT, NO FURTHER BALLOTS WERE NEEDED. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A PRESIDENT HAS BEEN ELECTED TO HIS FIRST TERM ON THE FIRST BALLOT, ALTHOUGH BOTH HUESS IN 1954 AND LUEBKE IN 1964 WERE RE-ELECTED ON THE FIRST BALLOT.

3. FURTHERMORE, AS SCHEEL RECEIVED 530 OF THE 534 VOTES NOMINALLY COMMITTED TO THE SPD/FDP, THE DEFECTIONS THAT WERE FEARED FROM THE SPD BECAUSE OF ANGER WITH SCHEEL'S PARTY COLLEAGUE, GENSCHER, DID NOT MATERIALIZE. WE THUS HAVE STILL FURTHER REASON TO EXPECT SCHMIDT'S ELECTION AS CHANCELLOR MAY 16 ALSO TO FOLLOW PARTY LINES AND THEREFORE ALSO PRODUCE AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY ON THE FIRST BALLOT THUS PERMITTING HIS ADMINISTRATION TO BEGIN NOT VISIBLY BURDENED BY BITTERNESS LEFT OVER FROM THE RESIGNATION OF BRANDT.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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